

New Hampshire's Clean School Bus Initiative

An Update on the School Bus Idling Reduction Initiative

Since 2002, New Hampshire school transportation providers and school bus drivers have been taking steps to reduce the harmful effects of diesel exhaust by limiting the time that school buses idle in schoolyards. In 2006 and 2007, school bus providers were asked to re-affirm their commitment, or take a pledge for the first time, to implement idling reduction practices whenever possible. Transportation providers completed a pledge form and submitted it to DES. The map below shows the school transportation providers who have taken the "No-Idling Pledge" as of September 2007, which represents over 70 percent of the school buses in the state.

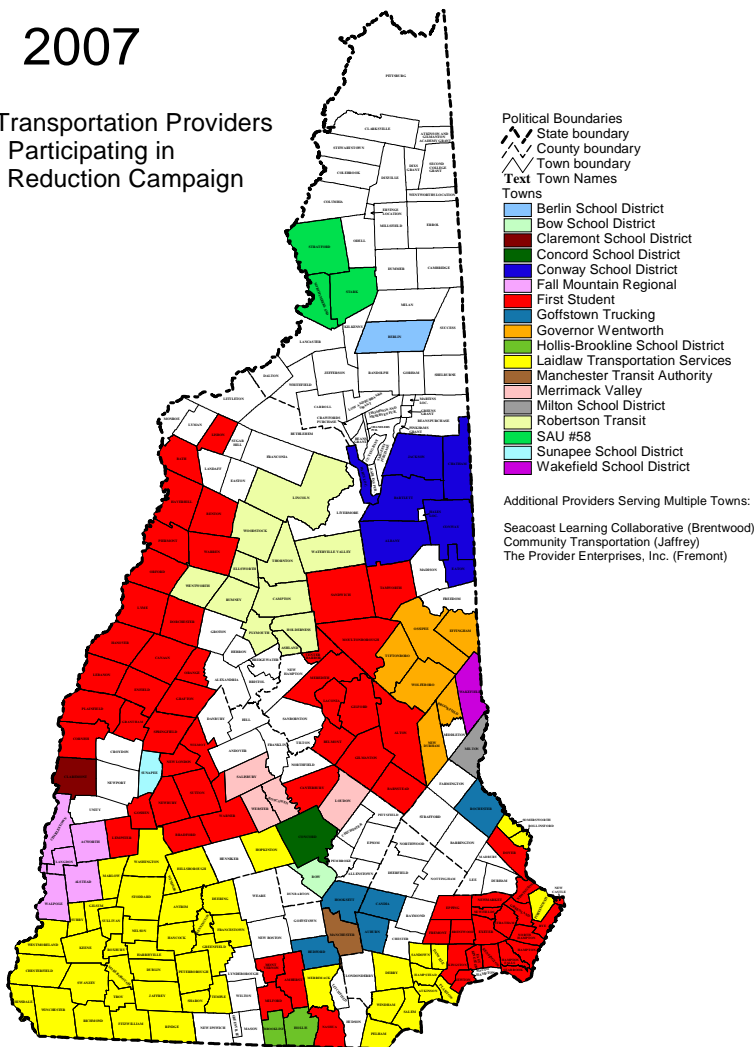


**Idling Wastes Fuel
and Money!**

DES encourages school bus fleet managers and school officials to be persistent in efforts to reduce school bus idling. Check to see if your transportation provider has taken a no-idling pledge for 2007 and remind them to return the pledge form if they haven't. DES staff are available to attend school bus driver training sessions to discuss health issues related to diesel exhaust and how the idling reduction campaign will help protect the health of drivers and students, and save money by reducing fuel consumption. DES also has tip cards, flyers, and key chains for bus drivers and fleet managers. For more information on taking the pledge, contact Kathy Brockett, DES, at (603) 271-1370.

New Hampshire Clean School Bus Initiative 2007

School Transportation Providers
Participating in
Idling Reduction Campaign



Updated September 21, 2007

School Bus Retrofit Projects in Manchester and Nashua

Students in Manchester and Nashua are riding on cleaner buses this year, thanks to an EPA Clean School Bus USA grant and the installation of pollution control equipment. Fifty-five buses in Manchester and 27 buses in Nashua are now equipped with diesel oxidation catalysts (DOCs). DOCs reduce fine particle emissions by about 40 percent, carbon monoxide emissions by 40 percent and hydrocarbon emissions by up to 70 percent.

To learn more about diesel retrofits and the EPA Clean School Bus program, visit www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/.

**Cleaner Buses
for Cleaner Air and
Healthy Kids!**



www.des.nh.gov (603) 271-3503

Reduce Idling for a Healthy School Community

Newsletter for School Officials and Transportation Providers

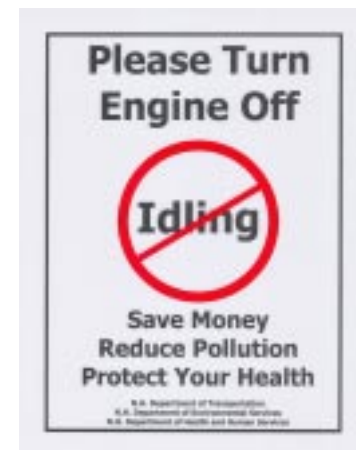
Fall 2007

Message to School Officials – Turn Your Schoolyard into a **Clean Air Zone**

When cars and buses idle, they release unhealthy exhaust fumes that have been linked to asthma and lung cancer. Children are more susceptible to exhaust pollution because their lungs are still developing and they breathe at a faster rate than adults. Diesel exhaust from idling school buses is particularly harmful and can accumulate on and around buses, posing a health risk to drivers and children. When buses and cars idle in schoolyards, the exhaust can also pollute the air inside school buildings, posing a health risk to children throughout the day.

The N.H. Department of Environmental Services (DES) encourages all school officials to turn their school communities into **Clean Air Zones** by adopting “no-idling policies.” By establishing no-idling policies, school officials will be helping to protect the health of children, drivers, teachers and all who enter the schoolyard from the harmful effects of exhaust fumes. School officials will also be saving money and reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. In general, all drivers – bus drivers and parents – should be directed to turn off engines as soon as they arrive in the schoolyard, especially when waiting for passengers to board. Here are some ideas and tips to get you started:

- Post “no-idling” signs in your schoolyards for parents and bus drivers to see. These metal signs (at right) are available from DES free-of-charge while supplies last!
- In colder months, provide a space inside your building where bus drivers or parents can wait. During athletic events, encourage bus drivers and athletes to meet and wait indoors instead of on their bus.
- Enlist students, teachers, and parents to help promote “No Idling at School” campaigns through newsletters and flyers.
- Have student volunteers (through classroom projects or science/environmental clubs) hand out information and “Clean Air” stickers to bus drivers and parents who are waiting at the school in their vehicles.
- Publicize your efforts to school board members, parents, and local officials!



18" by 24" sign

Remember the Rule - No Idling at School! We'll all breathe a little easier.

Clean Air Zones at Hampton Academy

In 2006, a group of ambitious eighth grade students at Hampton Academy Junior High undertook their own No Idling project to help improve air quality. They surveyed bus drivers and parents to learn about their attitudes and behavior, and implemented a campaign asking them to pledge to turn off engines whenever possible. They posted No Idling signs in the schoolyard and distributed literature about the issue.



Student posts sign at Hampton Academy.

Winter Guidelines Help Reduce School Idling

During winter months, safety and comfort of passengers remain priorities when it comes to pupil transportation. If it's necessary to idle, drivers should limit idling time based on outside temperatures, as required by the following state regulations:

- Above 32° F: 5 minutes
- Minus 10° F – 32° F: 15 minutes
- Below minus 10° F: No limit

Resources are available to help implement no-idling campaigns at your schools (tip cards, articles, signs, keychains, bus driver training, and stickers). Contact Kathy Brockett, DES, at (603) 271-1370 for more information.

